

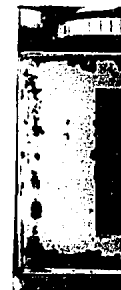
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SOURCE Ch'un-chung Jih-pao.

ACTIVITIES OF NINGSIA PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT, SECOND HALF 1951

The following report was made by Vice-Chairman Ying Shao-tang at the Fourth Session, Northwest Military and Administrative Committee on 24 November 1951. In it he discussed the activities of the Ningsia People's Government during the second half of 1951 and the plans for 1952.

The activities of the Ningsia People's Government, in the second half of 1951, included making preparation to implement land reform in the spring of 1952 rallying the people to participate in the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement, campaigning against counterrevolutionaries, undertaking various production and construction projects, and expanding cultural, educational, and health activities.

In May 1951, the government launched activities to suppress counterrevolutionaries. Although a great deal has been achieved during the ensuing months, some die-hard counterrevolutionaries are still continuing their activities. The provincial government has, therefore, stepped up its propaganda-education programs for cadres at various levels to correct the paralysis of pacifist thinking in order to sharpen the political alertness of the cadres and the people to fortify the people's democratic dictatorship.

In the spring of 1951, the epidemic of hoof-and-mouth disease affected 50 percent of the total 30,000 head of cattle in Ningsia. Of the total, 2.8 percent died from the disease. During the same period, disease-carrying parasitic insects infected sheep and goats which killed some 119,213 sheep and 183,250 goats. Since a majority of the people in Ningsia make their living by means of livestock industry, the diseases have caused a great deal of hardship. A serious calamitous condition may arise in Ningsia if, in addition to the animal diseases, there are drought condition during the later part of 1951, followed by disease epidemics in the spring of 1952.

A. Land-Reform Activities

The government plans to carry out land reform in the winter of 1951 and the spring of 1952 in Ningsia's agricultural region. Thus the provincial and the hsien governments convened a series of meetings from August to October 1951. Problems, such as land-reform policies, class differentiation, the handling of the Moslem temples, land problems in the Hung-pei area, etc., were thoroughly discussed. After tentative agreements were reached on these various problems, government and party workers and people's delegates proceeded with preparations for launching land reform - waging propaganda, organizing the peasants, improving peasants' associations, etc.

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About 1,177 cadres were assigned by the provincial government to administer land reform under an over-all plan; 278 of them were selected from the provincial governments and other government agencies at levels corresponding to the provincial government; 564 from various hsien or municipal governments; 103 from the army; and 232 from the Northwest China Military and Administrative Committee. An additional 2,159 workers were appointed by the hsien governments from local government employees, young workers and peasants, and revolutionary intellectuals. All these land-reform workers were brought together for a brief training before being sent to the 328 hsiang to carry out land reform -- except for the few assigned to the Provincial Land Reform Committee and the 12 land-reform committees at the hsien or municipality level. From four to seven persons were assigned to each hsien. The person with greatest experience, or the person with a rank equal to the head of the ch'u government, was made chairman of the group.

To provide guidance and supervision for land reform, the Ningsia Provincial People's Government in October 1951 established the Land-Reform Inspection Team. The inspection team has four field units, each composed of about six persons, with the government departmental or divisional chief as the head. Each field unit is to inspect and supervise the land reform of a particular area. The provincial government also invited the people to organize observation teams to conduct inspection tours with the government inspection teams. Similar teams and groups for inspection and observation purposes have also been organized at the hsien or municipal level.

Land reform has been carried out in 12 hsien or municipalities. It was begun in the swampland area in October 1951 and should be completed by mid-February 1952. This marks the first stage of the land-reform program. Land reform in the mountainous areas of T'ung-hsin Hsien, Chung-wei Hsien, and Ling-wu Hsien will be carried out later because of the late arrival of the spring farming season in these areas and also because many Moslems live in those areas. However, the government has tentatively started land reform in a limited area in T'ung-hsin. In the first stage of land reform, the government concentrated its available personnel within a limited area in each hsien or municipality and then advanced step by step to cover the whole region. As demonstrated by Ning-shou Hsien and Yen-ch'ih Hsien, land reform is generally carried out in the following stages: first, the government wages a propaganda campaign to solicit grain, reorganizes the peasants' associations and local governments, investigates local situations, implements the liquidation struggles against local despots and landlords, and holds mass meetings to demarcate class status among the local populace. Second, the government goes ahead with the campaign against the despots and landlords and carries out the actual confiscation, acquisition, and redistribution of land and property. Third, peasants' associations and local governments are reorganized, leadership is strengthened, and preparations are made for increasing production. Fourth, after the above steps have been taken, plans are drawn up to make land surveys and evaluations, and for issuing land certificates.

Land reform was also carried out in August 1951 in ten experimental hsiang, involving 4,215 families, or 22,562 persons. Eighty families, or 795 persons, in seven of these ten experimental hsiang were landlords; in other words, landlords constitute 4.8 percent of the total population of the seven hsian. After the completion of land reform, the authority of the landlord class ceased, and peasants became more eager to produce. However, some experimental hsiang were not properly chosen, our experience was not sufficient to cope with all problems, the masses of the people were not thoroughly mobilized, and our general strategy in this land reform was not very sound. After having been reviewed, all these shortcomings were corrected.

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B. Resist America, Aid Korea Activities

Since the National Headquarters of the Resist America, Aid Korea Committee issued the three objectives on 1 June, and since the Visit Korea Comfort Mission came here to make reports, activities in support of the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement have reached a new stage in Ningsia Province.

A majority of the people's organizations, factories, business firms, and farm families have signed patriotic compacts. For instance, 90 percent of the families in Chung-ning Hsien, and seven out of the 11 hsiang in Ho-lan Hsien's second ch'u have signed such compacts. This has in effect greatly stimulated the people's enthusiasm for self-education, production, making contributions in kind to the government, and paying taxes. Peasants who took part in the tax-payment contest issued on their own initiative a slogan saying that they would "pay tax in grain of good quality and without delay, and that no grain of bad quality will be shipped out of the village."

Furthermore, peasants organized many mutual-aid teams. Public grain collection has been very successful. In 20 days, summer grain reached the storehouses in an amount equal to 108 percent of the original quota for the 20-day period. In T'ung-hsin Hsien, Chung-ning Hsien, and Chung-wei Hsien, the goal of the autumn grain collection was fulfilled in the third 10-day period of October 1951; grain collection for the rest of the province is expected to be completed early in November 1951.

National minority groups, particularly among workers and peasants, reacted enthusiastically to the campaign to make contributions for purchasing munitions. By the first 10-day period in October 1951 the amount pledged was 8,799,000,000 yuan, with 3,834,710,000 yuan actually received. Chung-ning Hsien district made the most remarkable contribution. Although its population is only 86,646, it launched a campaign to donate a fighter plane to the government. It realized this goal ahead of schedule -- in 40 days, from 11 June to 20 July 1951 -- with a collection totaling 1,525,544,600 yuan. However, because our organizations and leadership and propaganda were not well coordinated, such campaigns were not widespread and did not effectively reach peoples of different origins and social backgrounds throughout the province.

There are 23,493 families in Ningsia Province who are dependents of the revolutionary martyrs and servicemen. Of this figure, 1,686 families received complete land-plowing service free of charge and 4,153 received partial land-plowing service. Ninety martyrs' families each received 1,000-5,000 catties of grain from the 250,000 catties transferred from the Northwest China Military and Administrative Committee. In addition, people in various areas donated money and grain for the martyrs' families. In the city of Ning-shan, for example, the people donated about 80,000 catties of grain, and in Ho-lan Hsien, the people loaned about 280 piculs of grain to the families of the martyrs and servicemen; hence, these families are able to live and to engage in production.

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the deputy chief of the second ch'u of Ho-lan Hsien, and the food poisoning of the local security maintenance force in Chung wei Hsien. Moreover, the I-kuan-t'ao [a sect of the Taoist religion considered counterrevolutionary] is still active in Yen-ch'ih Hsien. All these indicate that the counterrevolutionaries are still active behind their heavy screen. Therefore, the provincial government has stepped up its propaganda-education programs for cadres at the various levels. It intends to correct the paralysis of pacifist thinking, thereby sharpening the political alertness of the cadres and the people to fortify the people's democratic dictatorship.

D. Production and Construction Activities

1. Agriculture and Forestry

Except in the drought-stricken Yen-ch'ih Hsien and T'ung-hsin Hsien and the flood areas in Ling-wu Hsien and Wu-chung Hsien, the harvest was good during summer and autumn 1951. The agricultural output was 55.6 percent above the original targets.

Forest protection has been enforced. The government is putting equal emphasis on developing new forests and protecting the existing ones. In the spring of 1951, the government planted trees in an area of 2,680 mou to counteract wind-driven sand, reinforce river banks, and protect the forests. The people planted 318,737 full-grown trees and numerous saplings in 235 mou of forest beds. Thus the government has almost completed its plan of increasing forest acreage by 3,620 mou and planting 104,329 trees.

2. Water Conservancy

New irrigation projects. Nang-chang Canal in Ho-tung was completed and opened on 10 November 1951. It is 29.4 kilometers long with 34 units of surface construction. Projects to enlarge the Chin Canal and to improve the drainage of the Ching-shui Branch Canal have also been completed. Projects for improving the Hsi-ta Branch Canal and Tang-lai Canal have been 70 percent completed and are expected to be finished by the spring of 1952.

Spring construction projects include a total of 2,754 projects: 16 lateral canal embankments, 6 flooding embankments, 300 bridges and culverts and 2,342 embankment protection projects. The government also planned to undertake 12 projects for cutting canals, which would require the removal of 170,564 cubic meters of stone and the dredging of 4,349,126 cubic meters of earth. Owing to the democratic work assignment system and improved living conditions, workers' efficiency increased greatly. As a result, 1,260 projects -- 58 percent of the total -- were added to the original plan. This would benefit an additional 63,730 mou of land.

3. Animal Husbandry

In the spring of 1951, hoof-and-mouth disease was prevalent in Ningsia. According to incomplete estimates, 30,000 cattle, 50 percent of the total, were affected by the disease with a mortality rate of 2.8 percent. In addition to various preventive measures taken by the hsien governments, the Northwest China Military and Administrative Committee sent a veterinary team to cooperate with local veterinarians in coping with the widespread animal disease. As a result, disaster was averted and the spring crops were not badly affected.

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However, at the same time, disease-carrying parasitic insects infected the sheep and goats. It is estimated that 119,213 sheep and 183,250 goats died of the disease. In Yen-ch'ih Hsien alone, 51,226 sheep and 44,000 goats died in the spring and summer of 1951. Since the livestock industry accounts for 60 percent of the income of the people of Yen-chi, the disease has caused great hardship. Some of the people have nothing left to live on.

The reason of this disaster was twofold: the sheep were not taken care of properly because of the drought-caused shortage of forage and provender; our leadership was poor, as evidenced by our bureaucratic attitude. We did not fully and maturely consider the bureaucratic attitude. We did not fully and maturely consider the possibility of disease epidemics and consequently we failed to take effective preventive measures. After the animal diseases struck, we were not able to cope with them effectively, and consequently the people suffered heavy losses. Subsequent investigation was conducted by governments at the various levels, and the officials responsible for the disaster were properly punished. A serious calamitous condition may arise if we face drought condition and the outbreak of diseases in the spring of 1952.

On 8 August 1951, veterinary teams consisting of 82 veterinary workers were sent to certain districts to take preventive measures and instruct the people regarding animal feed, feed preparation, animal sanitation, elimination of old and weak animals, etc. Eight veterinarians assigned by the Northwest China Military and Administrative Committee have gone to work in the country.

4. Industry and Commerce

Industry: Projects under construction include one wool-washing plant, two power plants, one rice and flour mill, and one sugar refinery. Most of the equipment for the wool-washing plant and for the power plant in Hsin-cheng has arrived. The construction of about 40 building units was started in 1951 and will continue through 1952 with completion expected by the end of 1952. The power plant in Wu-chung, which is owned by public and private investors, has been completed and will begin operation early in December 1951. The construction of the rice and flour mill in Wu-chung is in progress. The sugar plant occupies the site of a former alcohol plant; its construction was begun in August 1951 and operation will start in November 1951.

Commerce: Our main commercial activities involve the organization of commodity trade and the regulation of commodity transactions. Ningsia produces hides, furs, wool, hemp, licorice root, lysium chinense, salt, sodium, coal, tobacco, etc., totaling 25 major products. In addition, it produces more than 300 native commodities of secondary importance to its economy. The marketing of these commodities, especially in a region like Ningsia, becomes a determinate factor in the development of the economy, and the marketing resolves itself into a problem of transportation. The government has tried to organize various means of transportation. It has developed river transport; 1,700 wooden and leather rafts are being used. According to estimates, the cargo tonnage passing through Yin-ch'uan and Teng-k'ou in May 1951 was twice as much as the total for 1950.

Private interests were fully considered in the 1951 price regulations and producers, transport agencies, and marketing firms were assured a reasonable profit. The wide disparity between the prices of agricultural goods and the prices of industrial goods has been corrected. According to price data in A-la-shan

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In terms of cloth, one picul of wool could be exchanged for only 35 feet of fine cloth before the liberation, while now it can be exchanged for 580 to 590 feet. Inversely, one bolt of cloth cost 1,700 catties of millet or 400 catties of wool before the liberation, but now it costs only 470 catties of millet or 44 catties of wool. On the basis of mutual benefit, purchasing and marketing contracts were signed between state companies and private firms. According to a rough estimate the volume of business of state-owned livestock and native products companies, from January to August 1951, was 200 percent greater than the entire 1950 volume.

E. Cultural, Educational, and Health Activities

As a result of our hard work these past 6 months, great progress has been made in education in Ningsia.

According to incomplete estimates, there has been a 34 percent increase in middle-school enrollment, as compared with 6 months ago, and the number of primary school students has increased by 25 percent. Students of the minority nationalities especially have shown a remarkable increase in number. For instance, the number of Moslem students in primary schools throughout the province has increased from 8,913 in 1950 to 10,246, an increase of 15 percent. The number of students in the Mongolian-language primary schools in Ting-yuan-ying has increased 40 percent. These newly enrolled students are mostly children of peasants and workers. This is because we are pursuing a sound educational policy to serve the workers and peasants and also because the workers and peasants are better off now than formerly. However, the quality of the students does not improve with their quantitative increase; and furthermore, the political development of teachers is often inadequate.

In fact some teachers are confused ideologically, and this retards the progress of students. School facilities are generally poor, and the schools usually lack sufficient funds. All these factors constitute an obstacle to progress and must be corrected.

There have been some achievements with regard to spare-time education for workers and peasants and general social education. There are 147 people's schools, with 7,387 students; these were formerly winter schools. There are 4,470 newspaper-study groups, consisting of 50,000 persons. There are also 23 workers' spare-time schools, enrolling 2,069 students. Workers and peasants are generally very eager to study, particularly those in Ning-shuo Hsien and Yen-ch'ih Hsien where land reform has been carried out. Peasants there went miles to attend school, even during the busy farming season. Some who were completely illiterate can now read newspapers and write.

Cultural centers and exhibit rooms have been established, and folk dancing, singing groups, and drama groups, have been organized at each hsien. By the dissemination of political propaganda in concert with the government, these organizations have made a remarkable contribution toward the attainment of various political and educational objectives.

As to public health, the various hsien have set up health organizations (hospitals and clinics) and have made arrangements for a proper distribution of existing hospital facilities and doctors. A medical school has enrolled 279 students.

However, the masses still do not know how to cope with diseases. It is hoped that in the course of land reform, the masses will become better educated in matters of health.

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The above is a summary of the various activities in Ningsia Province. From what has been said we can see that we have made substantial progress. However, there are many shortcomings. But, in accordance with the spirit expressed in this conference, we will mobilize all available resources to continue the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement, and extend the ideological reform movement for greater improvement and achievement in our various activities.

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